(b) if so, how many such bridges have been identified during the last five years and how many have actually been repaired/ replaced;

(c) what has been the Budget allotment of funds for bridge works during the last ten years and how much has been spent by the Railways; and

(d) has the Special Cell for each Zonal Railway, as recommended by the Sub-Committee of Railways Reforms Committee in 1998 been created; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Large number of Railway bridges do not need urgent replacement/repairs. As on 1.4.2003, to total of 5427 bridges have been sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation. During the last five years i.e. upto 1.4.2003, 9698 bridges have been identified and 4271 bridges have been rebuilt/rehabilitated and others are under various stages of execution.

(c) Rs. 918.42 crores were allotted for bridge rehabilitation/rebuilding during the last ten years (1993-94 to 2002-03) and Rs. 762.86 crores have been spent during the period.

(d) Bridge organization headed by Chief Bridge Engineer exists on each Zonal Railway to monitor the bridge works, inspection of bridges and other related bridge works.

Status of projects of doubling of rail lines

†3298. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects for doubling of rail lines in the country; zonewise;

(b) the present status of each sector and funds allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan for the purpose and the amount spent thereon so far; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the expected time for completion of this doubling works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Gauge conversion of Kollam-Virudhu Nagar

3299. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated cost required for the gauge conversion of Kollam-Virudhu Nagar rail line;

(b) the amount set apart in the current year's budget and the total amount spent so far from the beginning of conversion work;

(c) the stage at which the progress of gauge conversion stands at present;

(d) reaction of Government on providing adequate funds for the completion of gauge conversion starting from Kollam; and

(e) the time by which the gauge conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Gauge conversion of Virudhunagar-Quilon (Kollam) is a part of sanctioned gauge conversion project of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar. Total anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 462.61 crore.

(b) The budget outlay of the project for 2003-04 is Rs. 25 crore and expenditure upto March, 2003 is Rs. 87.65 crore.

(c) to (e) Gauge conversion between Virudhunagar and Rajapalayam has been completed and the line commissioned on 01.06.2003. Rajapalayam-Tenkasi (61Km) is targeted for completion during 2003-04. Earthwork and bridge works are in progress in the various sections except ghat section between Tenkasi and Punalur where final location survey has been completed and the report is under finalisation. The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources.